

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 6 of 1881.

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th February 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.					
BENGALI.									
<i>Monthly.</i>									
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví" ...	Calcutta	2,100						
2	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly	175						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>									
3	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	600						
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto	.....	27th January 1881.				
5	"Rajshahye Samvád" ...	Rajshahye	31						
<i>Weekly.</i>									
6	"Ananda Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta	700	24th	ditto.				
7	"Arya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	28th	ditto.			
8	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	671	25th	ditto.				
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ...	Calcutta	2,000						
10	"Bardwán Sanjívaní" ...	Burdwán	296	25th	ditto.				
11	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	350	30th	ditto.				
12	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	745	28th	ditto.				
13	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Beauleah, Rájsháhye...	200	26th	ditto.				
14	"Murshidábád Patriká" ...	Berhampore	487						
15	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto	.....	28th	ditto.			
16	"Navavibhákar" ...	Calcutta	850	24th	ditto.				
17	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	.....					
18	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	275	21st	ditto.				
19	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kakiniá, Rungpore	250	27th	ditto.				
20	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah	500	30th	ditto.				
21	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	500	24th	ditto.				
22	"Som Prakásh" ...	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	31st	ditto.			
23	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Calcutta	4,000	29th	ditto.				
24	"Srihatta Prakásh" ...	Sylhet	440	24th	ditto.				
25	"Tripurá Vártávaha" ...	Commillah	.....					
<i>Daily.</i>									
26	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Calcutta	700	28th January to 1st February 1881.					
27	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	29th ditto to 1st ditto.					
28	"Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto	625	2nd February 1881.					
29	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto	500	31st January and 1st February 1881.					
30	"Prabháti" ...	Ditto	.....					
31	"Samáchár Sudhábarsan" ...	Ditto	.....					
ENGLISH AND URDU.									
<i>Weekly.</i>									
32	"Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	365	29th	ditto.				
HINDI.									
<i>Weekly.</i>									
33	"Behár Bandhu" ...	Bankipore, Patna	500	20th	ditto.				
34	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	500	20th	ditto.				
35	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto	200	24th	ditto.				
36	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto	.....	22nd	ditto.			
PERSIAK.									
<i>Weekly.</i>									
37	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ...	Ditto	250	28th	ditto.				
URDU.									
<i>Weekly.</i>									
38	"Tijarut-ul-Akhbár" ...	Ditto	.....					
ASSAMESE.									
<i>Monthly.</i>									
39	"Assam Vilásini" ...	Sibsagar	.....					

POLITICAL.

UCHIT BAKTA,
January 29th, 1881.

THE *Uchit Baktá*, of the 29th January, asks Lord Ripon to reconsider the decision arrived at by his predecessor with respect to Yakub Khan. His Excellency will find, if he consults the Members of his Council, that there is not much evidence against that chief, and it is necessary that justice should be done to him.

PRATIKAR,
January 21st, 1881.

2. The *Pratikar*, of the 21st January, received on the 31st idem, refers to the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor Mr. Mosley's case and Sir Ashley Eden in the case of Mr. Mosley's misunderstanding with Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji.

The editor fully approves of the decision, and lays much stress on the fact that the word *budjati* is not in common parlance a word expressive of any other idea than mere obstinacy.

SAR SUDHÁNIDHI,
January 24th, 1881.

3. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 24th January, is not satisfied with the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of Mr. Mosley's difference with Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji, and exclaims: Will natives of India be always found fault with? The editor, however, congratulates Sir Ashley Eden on the courage he has shown in disregarding the recommendations made by the Commissioner Mr. Monro, and concludes by asking His Honor to transfer Mr. Mosley to some district where there are no indigo or tea planters.

UCHIT BAKTA,
January 22nd, 1881.

Mr. Mosley.

4. On the same subject the *Uchit Baktá*, of the 22nd January, makes similar observations.

SAHACHAR,
January 24th, 1881.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 24th January, expresses its sympathy with the object of the meeting held by the ryots of the Nuddea district at Kissengunge. It is to be regretted, remarks the editor, that, while there are so many to advocate the rights of the zemindars, the wealthy and powerful minority who already possess rights the most prejudicial to the masses, the poor and voiceless ryots have almost no one to plead their cause.

SAHACHAR.

6. The same paper contains an article headed the "Improvement of prison discipline" in which the need of treating the prisoners with kindness is expatiated upon, and Government asked to make such arrangements in the jails for the employment of the convicts as each of them might be set to do some work which was suited to his rank and capacities. The editor further dwells on the extreme necessity of subjecting the prisoners to moral discipline. The policy of entrusting the superintendence of jails to doctors is a wise one, because members of the medical profession are generally found to be humane persons. Dr. Mouat's labours for the reform of the prisons in Bengal produced such good results as have not yet been approached by the work of a hundred Heeleys. Sir George Campbell reversed this policy of appointing doctors to the work of jail superintendence, and the consequence was that under his administration the rigors of the jail were increased to an extent which cannot be adequately described. Fortunately his successors Sir Richard Temple and Ashley Eden have not followed him in this matter.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 24th, 1881.

Mr. Mosley's case and Sir Ashley Eden.

7. The *Navavibhákar*, of the 24th January, thus writes in an article headed "Is this even-handed justice?" Sir Ashley Eden is believed to be an impartial, liberal-minded, equitable, and considerate ruler.

This popular estimate of the Lieutenant-Governor has, however, received a rude shock from his decision in the case of Mr. Mosley's misunderstanding with Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji. The orders which he has passed with respect to each of these officers are such as would lead one to suppose that Sir Ashley Eden has made an invidious distinction in awarding punishment. Whether such a distinction has really been made we are not prepared to say; but there can be no doubt as to the fact that his decision is not marked by impartiality. The Lieutenant-Governor's resolution has greatly disappointed us. Although not disfigured by so much impartiality as the letter which the Commissioner Mr. Monro wrote to Government in support of the action of Mr. Mosley, still the least defect in the decision of such a Governor as Sir Ashley Eden is enough to occasion regret. As to Mr. Monro's suggestions and recommendations they are characteristic of the man. It is hard to see how His Honor, after admitting that both Mr. Mosley and the Deputy Magistrate were wrong, could inflict upon them punishments so different in their nature. Great injustice has been done to the Deputy Magistrate. The decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in this case will foster the impression which already exists that European and native offenders are not treated in the same impartial manner by Government. It would have been well if all the papers connected with this matter had been given to the public. Another point to be noted in this connection is that in the Government resolution the previous shortcomings of the Deputy Magistrate are remembered to his disadvantage while there is no mention made of the strictures passed by the High Court on the conduct of Mr. Mosley when he was Magistrate of Maldah.

8. The same paper learns with regret from the last Administration

Tolls on roads and ferries.

Report of Bengal that last year a large

revenue was raised from the tolls on roads and

ferries under the charge of municipalities and unions. It is strange that these tolls have not yet been abolished. They were levied under the plea of construction and maintenance of roads prior to the imposition of the road cess. Now that there is a separate fund for this purpose formed from the proceeds of the cess it is not easy to see why the tolls referred to continue to be levied. It is levying a tax for the same thing twice over, and operates as a check upon the growth of local trade and industries. The editor then proceeds to refer to a resolution recently published in the *Gazette of India* on the subject of octroi taxation. While approving of the instructions contained in the document, and admitting that municipalities very often abuse their power of taxation, he would yet point out that in the case of articles imported from a foreign country it is necessary that a tax should be levied, because otherwise local manufactures would be very likely driven from the market.

9. Referring to the trial of the Kohlapore conspirators, the same

The Kohlapore conspiracy.

paper says that Government should institute

a close enquiry into the causes of such con-

spiracies. The statement made by certain narrow-minded Europeans that it is the educated natives who are usually disaffected, and who are the cause of all this mischief, is not worth refuting. This movement, as well as that of Balavant Phadke before it, was entirely confined to illiterate men. The people of India are by their nature lovers of peace and averse to strife. That they do occasionally commit breaches of the peace is due to the high-handed rule of some individual officer. The educated under such circumstances seek to have their grievances redressed by means of constitutional agitation. The editor concludes by pointing out that the duty of Government will not be done simply by the trial and punishment of the offenders. It should enquire into the causes of the dissatisfaction.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 24th, 1881.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

NAVAVISHAKAR,
January 24th, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on the condition of
the people.

10. Referring to the remarks made by Sir Ashley Eden in the last Administration Report of Bengal on the improvement in the material condition of the people of these provinces, the same paper

makes the following observations:—From an increase in the price of agricultural produce, in the excise receipts, and in the supply of English piece-goods, the Government of Bengal has inferred that an improvement has taken place in the condition of the people. The higher prices have indeed brought more money into the pockets of the agriculturists, but it is to be doubted whether they have become happier. Simultaneously with the rise in the prices of food-grains, the price of other necessaries and the rents of land also have risen; and thus, as far as the agriculturists are concerned, increased expenditure has kept pace with increased income. It is at the present time a common saying that men cannot now consume so much food as formerly. It is needless to say that this is because—owing to a decrease in the productive powers of the land, increase of population, and many other causes—men cannot now command so much for consumption as formerly. Before, however, rejoicing at any improvement in the condition of the people, it behoves Government to ponder well on the large numbers who have been prostrated by the malarious fever. This scourge has made the people sickly, and injuriously affected their earnings, while it has brought about an increase of expenses. In a country where the great majority of the people suffer from fever for four months in the year it is easy to form an idea of the extent of their happiness. Every one acquainted with this country will at once admit that the lower classes are gradually becoming unduly addicted to habits of luxury in their eagerness to imitate the glitter and pomp of their social superiors. From this love of luxury, which forms a chief characteristic of the suburban populations, the rulers are generally found to draw their inferences regarding the improvement in the condition of the masses. Of course such inferences would be perfectly legitimate if the people were really seen to have contracted habits of luxury after supplying the ordinary wants of their families; but it is notorious that among the uneducated the desire is strong to indulge in luxuries even when the real wants of their families have not been met. It is equally fallacious to infer improvement in the material condition of the inhabitants of these provinces from an increase in the excise revenue. What the last-mentioned fact does show is that the number of those who use spirituous liquors or intoxicating drugs is increasing, and thus many families are suffering the greatest hardship; nor is the increase in the supply of British piece-goods a fact which can be referred to as a proof of the growing prosperity of the people of this country. It rather shows that the condition of the native weavers is becoming increasingly deplorable, and that the manufacture of the native looms is being superseded by British piece-goods.

NAVAVISHAKAR.

Sir Ashley Eden on the vernacular
press.

11. The same paper remarks that Sir Ashley Eden would seem to have conceived a lasting dislike for the native newspapers. He is determined, it would seem, not to say a single kind word to them. This

is indeed greatly to be regretted. They called him from Burmah to be Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, but he has taken every opportunity of crushing them. He has abused them repeatedly and helped to enact a law for their better regulation. Regarding the observations made in the last Administration Report on the tone of the native press, the editor remarks that Act IX has not done anything to bring about a moderation in the spirit of the vernacular journals. The fact is the really able men in the native press continue to write as temperately as ever. That the native papers frequently oppose Government is rather a matter of pride than of

regret. The newspaper press constitutes what would be called in England the Opposition. That the papers are full of personalities regarding Government servants might be true (to some extent. Should not the editors be wanting in their duty if they failed to expose the private character of such public servants as Kirkwood, Campbell, Mosley, or Magrath when this private character was to some extent answerable for the manner in which they discharged the duties of their office ? The further allegation made by the Lieutenant-Governor that native newspapers lack originality is wholly erroneous. They indeed extract items of news from English papers, but do not reproduce their views upon any public question, except, of course, in cases in which no difference of opinion could be possible. As for originality, however, His Honor should have considered that it is a gift which is not possessed by everybody. Thus the observations he has made regarding the vernacular press are perfectly original. To how few Englishmen has it been given to indulge in such statements !

12. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 24th January, is not opposed to the continuance of the office of the Press

The Press Commissioner.

Commissioner, but believes that until it is

placed on a more efficient footing it will not be able to do any good to the press. The Press Commissioner should be enabled to really become a medium of communication between Government and the organs of the people.

13. The same paper remarks that, while discussions regarding the object and scope of the Draft Rent Bill may be regarded as being carried on from either

The Draft Rent Bill and the *Gantidars*.
the zemindar's or the ryot's point of view, it

is desirable that there should be something said in favour of the rights of the *Gantidars*, a most useful class, composed chiefly of Brahmans and Kayasthas, but for whose labours at the time of the Permanent Settlement, and subsequently Bengal would not have been so soon filled with tenants. The condition of the *Gantidars* has become one of great hardship at the present time. While the landlords have in most instances succeeded in enhancing their rents, they have not, in their turn, met with like success in their efforts to raise the rents of the ryots. The consequence therefore has been that in not a few cases the rights of the *Gantidar* have been sold to satisfy the claim of the zemindar. It is the *Gantidar* who collects the rents from the ryots of a zemindari, and the trouble and expense to which he is put for this purpose may be imagined. He has often to bear the ruinous costs of litigation with the tenants. It is, therefore, proper that in the Draft Rent Bill there should be some provision for fixing a higher percentage of profit for the *Gantidars*, and for saving their rights, in cases in which an estate was sold for arrears of rent.

14. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 25th January, remarks that, owing to the faults of individual officers, some of the most beneficial public measures occasionally produce bitter consequences. Thus the census operations in Burdwan have recently furnished an instance of magisterial oppression which would only be possible under a most despotic Government. One Trailokya Ghosh, an inhabitant of Kaithagram, under thana Rayna, who was recently asked to be an enumerator, but was unable to undertake the work owing to ill-health, was arrested on a warrant and put upon his trial. The Magistrate was out on his mofussil tour at this time, and the poor man had to march, from one place to another, for some days before his case was called on for hearing.

15. The same paper asks Government to maintain the charitable dispensary at Burdwan which is an extremely useful institution.

*ANANDA BAZAR
Patrika*,
January 24th, 1881.

*ANANDA BAZAR
Patrika*.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
January 25th, 1881.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
January 25th, 1881.

Lord Ripon and the Vernacular
Press Act.

16. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 25th January, implores Lord Ripon to repeal the Vernacular Press Act—a measure for which there does not exist the least necessity. The Editor dwells upon the loyalty of the people of India and the language of denunciation which the liberal leaders used with reference to this Act before the late general election.

BHÁRAT MIHIR.

17. The same paper, in referring to a recent resolution of the Government of India on the confirmation of probationers under the Indian Civil Service Rules, remarks that, in practice, this service is but a branch of the Subordinate Executive Service, and has been devised only for the purpose of excluding natives of India from the Covenanted Civil Service. In the resolution adverted to, the Editor sees only a pretext for enabling Government some day to declare that the probationers have been found incompetent.

The Indian Civil Service, and the
Government Resolution.

18. The *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 27th January, does not see the necessity of continuing the office of Press Commissioner. The Editor quotes, with approbation, the remarks of the *Sádháraní* on this subject.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKÁSH,
January 27th, 1881.

SULABHA SAMÁCHÁR,
January 29th, 1881.

19. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 29th January, directs the attention of Government to the oppressions which attend the working of the Contagious Diseases Act. The underlings of the police commit gross oppressions on the unfortunates.

URDU GUIDE,
January 29th, 1881.

Sale of meat in the Dinaore
market.

20. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 29th January, observes, in reference to the memorial made to the Commander-in-Chief by the Hindu and Mahomedan inhabitants of Dinaore for the issue of orders for the vend of different kinds of meat by different persons in the local market, that it would be well if His Excellency recorded distinct orders to the effect that those who might vend goat's meat were not to be allowed to deal in pork. This would remove all ground of dissatisfaction.

DACCA PRAKÁSH,
January 30th, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on the Vernacular
Press.

21. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 30th January, contains an article on the remarks made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the vernacular newspapers. The sentiments are, however, similar to those noticed in paragraph 11.

SÁDHARANI,
January 30th, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on the Vernacular
Press.

22. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 30th January:—"They never hesitate to impute unworthy motives to Government, and are full of personalities regarding Government servants."—Now it is not desirable that such an erroneous impression should exist in the mind of the Lieutenant-Governor. In fact, the imputing of unworthy motives to Government is not a matter which should be treated lightly, nor should it be a point of pride with anybody to be constantly doing this. But if in any instance the action of Government were seen to be such as could not be accounted for on any other supposition, and if it were further found that the action would be quite intelligible if only it were attributed to some bad motive, an uncharitable inference would, in a manner, become necessary. When the ignorant masses, those that are perfectly disinterested, and all others, except the insincere, persist in speaking of some action of Government as having emanated from some bad motive, how can the newspapers help reflecting this opinion? And this is done by English and native papers alike. What again

would be the good of having a newspaper press if it failed to be an exponent of public opinion? Is there again any reason to expect that what the public say on any subject should be always just? How many things, for instance, are not being said of the approaching census? A fifteen-anna portion of the people believe that some new tax is inevitable. Now has any vernacular newspaper fostered such wrong notions? The fact, on the contrary, is that it is the vernacular papers which are explaining to the people the object and scope of a census. How then can it be said that these papers never hesitate to impute unworthy motives to Government? There are, however, instances in which the casting of such imputations becomes in a manner necessary. When, for instance, in spite of the most depressed condition of the Indian finances, and in utter disregard of the earnest protests of the people, Lord Lytton remitted the import duties on certain species of piece-goods, almost all newspapers—native and English alike—spoke of the proceeding as one which had emanated from a desire to conciliate the merchants of Manchester. If ever hypothesis proved a fact, the hypothesis that was resorted to on this occasion was not an unreasonable one. And was it wrong to express such views in newspapers? In a State where efforts to obtain political power periodically lead to great agitations, and success in political conflict is measured by the success in obtaining the votes of the people, it should not appear strange that any one of the parties should be anxious to conciliate some powerful interest. And if in seeking to do this they injured the interests of another country, would not the people of that country be justified in speaking their minds? Act IX, and the animadversions of the Lieutenant-Governor notwithstanding, if, owing to any action on the part of Government, the public interests were seen to suffer, and if the action could not be accounted for on any other reasonable hypothesis, except by imputing unworthy motives to Government, it is next to impossible that the newspapers would abstain from this course. It is not true that Government is always acting from bad motives; nor is it therefore true that the native papers are constantly casting imputations on its motives. The further allegation that they never hesitate to impute unworthy motives is similarly unfounded.

The Lieutenant-Governor is further of opinion that native newspapers are full of personalities regarding Government servants. Now it so happens that we regularly read from 20 to 25 of such papers, but have not yet noticed that any one of them has ever contained reflections on the private character of any officer. What, however, they do contain occasionally are remarks on the "nationality" of the Government officers. No native paper, for instance, has made any reflections on the private character of Mr. Mosley, Mr. Kirkwood, or Mr. Magrath, or others, who have from time to time figured in their columns. In conclusion, if the Press Commissioner really desires to confer any benefits upon the vernacular newspapers, it is cases like these which furnish him with an opportunity of doing this. Let him now come forward and disabuse the Lieutenant-Governor of the wrong impression which exists in his mind regarding the native press, and thus do his duty as the mediator between Government and native editors.

23. Referring to the small number of lads who have yet passed successfully the examinations of the University from the Cuttack College, the same

paper urges on Government the need of multiplying the number of such schools in Orissa as might teach up to the standard of the Entrance Examination. A college can never flourish unless it has a regular and large supply of pupils.

SADHABANI,
January 30th, 1881.

SOM PRAKASH,
January 31st, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on the Vernacular
Press.

24. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks on the Vernacular Press, the *Som Prakash*, of the 31st January, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 11.

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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 5th February 1881.